

Havre Area JSEC Minutes for 08/12/09

Attending: Marla Hagen - Job Service Regional Director, Carol Lamey - Job Service Manager Havre, Bev Hagen – Job Service, Cathy Jamruska – MSU Northern Agriculture Research Center, Lori Evans – Hill County Electric/Triangle Telephone, Sylvia Murray – Murrays’ Genealogy Services, Darrel Hannum – District IV HRDC Employment & Training Program, Geraldine Laux – District IV HRDC Employment & Training Program, Garnet Bergren – Havre Day Activity Center.

What's New at Job Service

1. Carol pointed out that Job Service has completed the new flooring project. New tile has been installed in the resource area up front and new carpet in the offices, hallway, and the other rooms. It was quite a project. The one day we had to re-route traffic was during the Hill County Fair, it was perfect timing for lower traffic numbers. We routed people to the back door and set up CSR in the kitchen area. This worked well. While we were moving furniture we rearranged to accommodate new staff. All the computer cords were bundled and tidied up under the front area computers.
2. Carol related that interviews for Mavis' replacement are taking place today and tomorrow. They are interviewing 4 people.
3. Mavis is retiring September 30. Sylvia asked if JSEC would be paying for her cake? Carol proposed cookies from the Grateful Bread as opposed to cake. Cathy Jamruska made motion to buy cookies for Mavis' retirement and Darrel 2nd the motion. All voted and were in favor. Carol said we will put an ad in the paper and the CMT will pay for ad. The date is still unclear but will be decided later with Mavis' input. She has 35 years employment with the state and 8 of those years are with Job Service. Sylvia and Carol will work out details for refreshments. JSEC will provide a card (Bev will purchase the card and everyone sign it). CMT will do a gift/memento.
4. Coming up we have an Independent Contractor presentation by Charlie Kolar here at Service . It will be on Friday, August 14, from 10-12. Then on Wednesday, August 19, Personnel Plus! Consulting Services is presenting Managing in Montana 2009 workshop at MSU Northern in Room 209 at the Brockman Center. Sylvia will set up a table of Job Service info and be on hand for the workshop. Our JSEC can send 2 people to the workshop for free. Sylvia will attend & Bev will call Kathy Jaynes to see if she wants the other. Other members planning to attend are already registered and paid. (Bev called Kathy and she is already registered and will be attending.) Sylvia will come to Job Service on Tuesday to get information for the table.
5. Marla Hagen, Job Service Regional Director shared some information with JSEC members. Ingrid Childress has taken a different position with the State of Montana and will be working with the Response program. Mike Cooney is our Administrator. Our Bureau Chief, Gary Warren, accepted a position in Washington, currently Mona Amundson is our Acting Bureau Chief. The Bureau Chief position has been advertised and is now closed. Screening is currently taking place and hopefully a new Bureau Chief will be selected by next month.
6. Marla also shared that \$3,000,000 in stimulus monies were received in Montana for Wagner-Peyser and reemployment services. Some of this money will be used to deal with staffing issues due to increased workloads. Staffing requests are prioritized by traffic volume. These will be temp positions (end of 2010).
7. Marla also shared that Unemployment has issued correspondence to participants that they may now be eligible to attend school and receive UI. The interested individuals will be steered through Job Services & One-Stop Centers.

8. Lori Evans pointed out that she is concerned that labor information for our area is not current or correct. Discussion evolved regarding how in recent weeks the halt of oil/gas exploration and the closure/loss of some higher paid positions in our area HAVE has impacted all of us. Marla agreed and asked for people's input as to how we can help. Lori shared that Job Service is very responsive and helpful but Havre is unique. Some of our industries are not quite as identifiable and fly under the statistical radar. Even a minor impact is huge to our population base. Marla agreed and asked Lori to call her if she comes up with anything specific ways to help.
9. Marla also shared that Havre Job Service needs to install a pricy cooling system for their computer room in order to keep it secure and cooled properly.

Treasurer's Report

1. Sylvia reported that the balance in checking is \$1,646.75
2. Balance in savings is \$25.05 (with a possible .01 for interest).

Sub Committee Reports

1. Bev presented information about Personnel Plus! Seminar. Sylvia will do the table as discussed previously.

Work Force Comments & Concerns

1. Hill County Electric/Triangle Communications
 - a. Lori expanded on her concerns about the recent closures and jobs lost with oil & gas exploration. She offered to be part of the solution in any way she can and just wants to keep us (as a committee of employers) aware so we can act proactively instead of getting caught unaware and unprepared. She shared that HCE/TTC is moving right along on their projects and business. She shared that they have a Facilities Records Specialist position currently open for programming/data and may possibly have 2-3 other employment opportunities open soon.
2. Havre Job Service
 - a. Carol shared that Sanjel has relayed to employees that the layoff was permanent. This impacted 10 employees in our area. Other oil/gas companies have had layoffs but at this time are reluctant to call them permanent.
 - b. Carol shared that the Veterans Administration at the state level has new funding they are using to look at the possibility of additional staff placed in Job Services around the state.
3. District IV HRDC Employment & Training Program
 - a. Geraldine shared information about the Subsidized Employment Program. She can place eligible participants with an employer at a prevailing wage. The program pays the wage while the employer is training and providing work for them. This focuses on retraining them and giving them skills. Hopefully when they are finished the employer will decide to hire them. Carol pointed out that if they are on UI, they are not eligible for her program.
 - b. Darrell encouraged employers to look seriously at the Subsidized Employment Program. The program pays the wage while the employer trains and then decides if this person would work for their organization. He reminded that participants must be TANF eligible.
 - c. Darrell also shared that HRDC currently has several openings agency-wide (Head Start, Early Head Start, Weatherization, Child Care Link, Domestic Violence). One of Geraldine's clients was hired for the data entry clerk position so they were happy to see some placement.
4. Northern Ag Research Center (NARC)
 - a. Cathy said they currently have interviews set up for the Livestock Manager position (2-3 people interviewing).
 - b. She said most of their student employees are staying with them.
5. Havre Day Activity Center

- a. Garnet shared that the minimum wage increase affected their clients. She said they are close to the point where their clients are making almost as much as their employees.
 - b. Garnet also shared that they are still continuing to recycle cardboard but are simply storing it at this point, there is no market at this time.
6. Murrays Mortuary Service
- a. Sylvia shared that they (she & husband, Clyde) are starting up a new business. Clyde was laid off in Chinook as a Funeral Director so they decided to start their own business providing travelling funeral assistance.
 - b. Sylvia also shared that as a Professional Genealogist she has been asked to speak at BYU on November 6 & 7

Open Forum

Topics had all been covered. ☺

Next meeting

JSEC – October 14 at 11 a.m. at Job Service

(Reminder that CMT & JSEC have been split & JSEC will meet every other month)

Meeting adjourned right at 12 noon! ☺